

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T
 NOFORN

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Pravda Publishing House in
 Bratislava

DATE DISTR. 26 April 1955

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Pravda Publishing House, the official publishing organ of the Communist Party of Slovakia, has two separate departments, one for newspapers and one for book publishing, under a joint management and director. The offices of the book publishing department are located on Spitalska ulica; the editorial offices of the newspapers (except Pravda) and other publications are located at 10 and 14 Jesenskeho ulica and at 8 Gorkeho ulica. Most of the Pravda offices are located at 12 Jesenskeho ulica, Bratislava.
2. The following papers were published by the Pravda Publishing House between 1948 and 1954:
 - a. Pravda, a daily, three issues appearing simultaneously in Bratislava, Zilina, and Kosice. Their contents are almost identical, except for local news added in the towns. Total circulation of the three Pravda editions was 260,000, but decreased to 210,000 in 1954.
 - b. Uj Szo, Hungarian daily, with a circulation of 55,000 to 60,000.
 - c. Propagandista, a fortnightly published in Slovak and Hungarian, edited by the central Party organs and containing propaganda material and information for the Party branches throughout Slovakia. Its circulation is 15,000 to 20,000.
 - d. Slovo Agitatora, a fortnightly published in Slovak and Hungarian (Hungarian title A Nepnevelo Szava), edited by the central Party organs. It has a circulation of 20,000 in Slovak and 6,000 in Hungarian.
 - e. Pod Zastavo Socialismus, A Slovak fortnightly dealing mainly with Party ideology, with a circulation of approximately 20,000.
 - f. Zivot Strani, a fortnightly published in Slovak and Hungarian (Hungarian title Partelet), with a circulation of approximately 80,000 in Slovak and 10,000 in Hungarian.

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S-E-C-R-E-T
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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

S-E-C-R-E-T

NOFORN

-2-

25X1

- g. Rolnicka Nedela, a Slovak weekly concerned with agriculture, with a circulation of approximately 45,000. Its publication was discontinued by the Pravda company in 1953. A similar agricultural weekly, the Rolnicka Noviny, is now published by another enterprise.
- h. Srsen, a satirical fortnightly with a circulation of 15,000 to 20,000. Publication was stopped in 1953.
- i. Nedela, a weekly magazine with a circulation of 20,000 publication of which was stopped in 1952.
- j. Moda A Textil, a monthly fashion magazine, with a circulation of 40,000.
3. Each paper published by the Pravda Publishing House has its own editorial staff. The Pravda staff consists of between 40 and 50 editors and 15 to 20 typists and clerks. Uj Szo employs between 25 and 30 editors and five or six typists. The administration of all the Pravda publications is handled by a joint administrative department, which also handles publicity and new subscriptions. The collective subscriptions department (factories, offices, institutions, newsstands) has a staff of 15 to 20 employees, and the individual subscriptions department has between 10 and 15.
4. The distribution of the papers was handled by a special postal service located in the main Pravda building, but on 1 January 1954 all publicity and distribution tasks were turned over to an enlarged postal service department, the Postova novinova urad, leaving only a skeleton administrative staff in the central Pravda office and one Pravda representative in each of the six district centers -- Bratislava, Nitra, Banska Bystrica, Zilina, Presov, and Kosice. The 15 branch offices throughout Slovakia were closed. Following the reorganization of the distribution department and the introduction of the new postal distribution service on 1 January 1954, the circulation of the Pravda and Uj Szo dailies together decreased by approximately 60,000 copies.
5. In 1948 the Pravda Publishing House showed a net profit of 12.5 million crowns from a gross income of 120 million; the net profit was turned over to the Party. The amount remained approximately the same up until 1952 when the papers stopped accepting advertisements. However, the company still made a profit in 1952 and 1953.
6. The following personalities [redacted] 25X1
- a. Bacilek (fnu), executive secretary of the Communist Party of Slovakia and a former worker in a railroad car factory at Vrutky (N 49-07, E 18-55).
- b. Arpad Benovic, former director of the Pravda company, [redacted] 25X1
He is at present chief accountant of the Dravona timber company; [redacted] 25X1
- c. Viktor Egri, literary editor of Uj Szo, state laureate in literature. [redacted] 25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

NOFORN

S-E-C-R-E-T
NOFORN
-3-

- [redacted] 25X1
- d. Dr. Edo Frish, Member of Parliament, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia, and former chief editor of the Slovak Pravda daily. [redacted] 25X1
- e. Langer (fnu), former head of the economic department of the Communist Party of Slovakia, [redacted] 25X1
- f. Gyula Lorinc, chief editor of Uj Szo daily, formerly employed by the Hron propaganda organ of the Communist Party in Slovakia. [redacted] 25X1
- g. Dr. Milos Marko, chief editor of Pravda since 1953 and employed by the Pravda company since 1949. [redacted] 25X1
- h. Mnacko (fnu), former literary editor of Pravda, [redacted] 25X1
- i. Kalman Mosko (aka Moskovits), assistant executive secretary of the Communist Party of Slovakia during the secretaryship of Bastovanski (fnu) [redacted] 25X1
- j. Novy (aka Neumann) (fnu), successor of Langer as head of the economic department of the Communist Party in Slovakia, [redacted] 25X1
- k. Sefranek (fnu), former head of the Culture and Propaganda Department of the Communist Party of Slovakia, [redacted] 25X1
- l. Nikolas Strauss, head of the postal distribution service of the Pravda Company in Bratislava.
- m. Mikolas Surina, editor of Pod Zastavo Socialismus, formerly manager of ZAS (Slovak News Agency). [redacted] 25X1
- n. Rudolf Zajac, deputy chief editor of Pravda. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1